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**Appendix to Earthworks in the Parish of English Bicknor,
"Family of Avenel"**

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APPENDIX.

FAMILY OF AVENEL.

THIS family was seated at "Bois Avenel," in Landelles, near Biards-in-Manche. The "Chronique de Normandie" names among the companions of the Conqueror, the "Sire de Biars, and . . . Avenel de Biars." William Avenel, Seigneur des Biards, and his three sons, Rolland, Nicholas, and Oliver, are named in a charter dated cir. 1158.¹ Rolland married Havis de Pariquy. Oliver married Petronilla de la Cheze, in 1228, and had a son named Oliver. William Avenel de Biart paid 16s. 8d. scutage in 1162.² A William Avenel is mentioned as a Baron of England, in the time of King John.³ The Avenels became Barons of the Marches of Scotland, where they held Eskdale.

We find the name widely spread in England at a very early date, but we shall, on the present occasion, confine our attention to those who held Bicknor and other lands in Gloucestershire.

We first meet with the name in the county of Gloucester in 1167, when Robert Avenel rendered an account of one mark, and the same was paid into the treasury; and the same year the sheriff accounted for a like sum for two virgates of land which Ralph Avenel held in Sandhurst.⁴ The land continued to be held by Ralph Avenel until 1174,⁵ when he would seem to have ceased to hold it, though the rent was accounted for in his name until the end of the king's reign (1189), and we have not had an opportunity of pursuing the search further. It would appear not unlikely

¹ Cart. de Savigny, at St. Lo. ² Rot. Pip., Sth Henry II. m. 1., dor.

³ Black Book of the Exchequer. The Avenels appear in the Extinct Peerages under the name of Avranches, or Abrinces. The last Baron of the name died before 1235, s.p. Maud, his sister and heir, married Hamon Crevequer.

⁴ Rot. Pip., 13th Henry II ⁵ Ibid., 20th Henry II.

that the above-mentioned Robert was the father of Ralph, and, probably, Ralph was the father of another Ralph, who acquired the Manor and Castle of Bicknor, for seizin of which, and for liberty to marry whom he pleased, he, in 1190-1, paid the king a fine of 100s. and 11 marks.¹ On the 22nd Nov., 1223, William Avenel made fine with the king in 40 marks, to have the lands of his father, Ralph Avenel,² which, with the bailliwick and *Castle* of Bickenore, he held *in capite*, as his inheritance.³ William Avenel died in 1236. The *writ diem clausit extremum* was tested on 5th May in that year, and it was found upon inquisition made thereupon, that he held two carucates of land in Bickenore, and that the land was worth in rents, villanages, and other issues, £23 6s. 1d. per annum. and further that *Dulcia*, his daughter, was his next heir.⁴ In the same year, upon security being given for the payment of 200 marks by Robert de Musecgros, in certain instalments, the king granted to the said Robert the custody of the lands and marriage of the heir of the said William Avenel, with the proviso that should the said heir die, any unpaid instalment should not be claimed.⁵

¹ Rot. Pip., 2nd Richard I. A Ralph Avenel held lands in Gloucestershire by Serjeanty. (*Testa de Nevil*, pp. 77 and 78.) In 1176 a Ralph Avenel was in mercy for a breach of the Forest laws in Gloucestershire, and suffered a fine of 20 marks and a war-horse. Three years afterwards he rendered the horse and was freed of the money by the king's writ. Rot. Pip. 22nd and 25th Henry II.

² Ralph Avenel was a benefactor to the Abbey of St. Peter's at Gloucester.

³ Rot. Fin., 8th Hen. III.

Nicholas Avenel was Sheriff of Gloucester as deputy of William Mareschal in the 4th and 5th years of Richard I., as he was again in the 1st and 2nd years of John. Rot. Pip. of those years.

In 1224 a precept was issued to Roger de Clifford, at that time Constable of St. Briavel's Castle, diligently to enquire, by just and loyal men of the view of Bicknor and of the bailliwick of Dean Forest, if Ralfe Avenel, in the time of King John, broke down the pool of the King at Culverham by the desire of the king or without his consent, and that if, upon inquisition, it was found that the said pool was broken down by the said Ralph without the consent of the king, he should take security from William son and heir of the said Ralph that he should make again that pool, and cause him to be admonished. Rot. Claus., 8th Hen. III., m. 1.

The field called Culverham is now well-known.

⁴ Inq., p. m., 20th Henry III. No. 11. ⁵ Rot. Fin., 20th Henry III.

The above statements are very clear and definite, and shew that Ralph was the father of William, and that Dulcia was the daughter and heir of the latter, nevertheless we find that the following records confuse this clear statement, and shew that, as is too frequently the case, owing to the carelessness or ignorance of juries, errors in names occur in contemporary public documents.

On 4th July, 1236, the Sheriff of Gloucester was commanded to seize into the king's hands the land held by Margaret Avenel in dower in Tynton (Teinton) and Langeford, of the gift of *Nicholas* Avenel her late husband, which he held of the king *in capite* by knights' service, Margaret being now dead, as *Dulcia*, daughter and heir of William, son and heir of *Nicholas*, whose wardship pertains to the king, is under age, and is in the king's custody; notwithstanding that Arnold de Bosco maintains himself in Tynton, and Henry son of Nicholas, in Langeford, as their fees; whereupon the sheriff was commanded to take the lands into the king's hands and deliver them to Robert de Muscegros, to whom the king had granted the custody of *Nicholas's* land and heir.¹

The name *Nicholas* is, in this record, erroneously written for *Ralph*, as is shewn by the following documents, which, in this particular, confirm the previous records.

The first is a precept of the king, directed on 17th August in the same year (1236), to the Sheriff of Gloucester, and stating that: Roger de Lokinton had placed himself upon an inquisition whether Margaret Avenel held the land in Langford, whereof he and Petronilla, his wife, were disscized by the king's command (which land Margaret gave Roger with Petronilla her daughter), in marriage, or in dower by the gift of Ralf Avenel, her late husband, as the king had heard: thereupon the king orders the Sheriff, notwithstanding the land was taken into the king's hand because it was believed to be the right of William Avenel's heir, who is in the king's custody, to cause Roger to have seizin thereof and then enquire into Margaret's title.² Accordingly an inquisition was taken, and it was found by a jury that Margaret Avenel

¹ Rot. Claus, 20th Henry III., m. 6.

² Rot. Claus, 20th Henry III. m. 5.

held in marriage, and not in dower by the gift of her late husband, Ralph Avenel, the sixth part of one knight's fee in Langeford, which she gave in marriage with her daughter to Roger de Lokinton; the king therefore commanded the Sheriff of Gloucester to give Roger and his wife seizin of the same. Tested 8th October, 1236.¹ Two days afterwards the king, understanding that a jury had found that Margaret Avenel held her land in Compton in dower of the inheritance of the daughter and heir of William Avenel, in the custody of Robert de Muscegros for a fine made with the king, commanded W. Elect of Worcester,² to give the said Robert seizin.³

In these three last cited records the name of William Avenel's daughter and heir is not given, and it is remarkable that she appears under another name in the following plea, nevertheless, her identity with Dulcia would seem to be sufficiently established.⁴ In 1239 an agreement was entered into, before the Justices Itinerant, between Cecilia Avenel, petitioner, and Roger Lokinton and Petronilla his wife, tenants, concerning $2\frac{1}{2}$ hides of land, except 16 acres of land and 4 acres of meadow, in Langford, whereof a plea was between them in the court: viz., that the aforesaid Roger and Petronilla recognised the aforesaid $2\frac{1}{2}$ hides of land, except as before excepted, as the right of Cecilia, and quit-claimed the same for themselves and the heirs of the said Petronilla for ever, and for this remise and quit-claim Robert de Muscegros, custodian of the aforesaid Cecilia and her lands, granted the aforesaid $2\frac{1}{2}$ hides, except as before excepted, to the said Roger and Petronilla for the term of 8 years next following the feast of St. Michael, Anno 23rd of the then king, at the annual rent of 8s. 4d.; and it was provided that the said Roger and Petronilla should not make any waste of the issues of the houses, or men, or any other thing of the said land and appurtenances, and that at the end of the said term the said Roger and Petronilla should yield up to the said

¹ Rot. Claus, 20th Henry III., m. 5.

² Walter de Cantelupe made Bishop of Worcester in this year.

³ Rot. Claus, 20th Henry III., m. 1.

⁴ It is not unlikely that *Dulcia* was a pet name given to her in childhood.

Cecilia all the said land without contradiction; and that if the said Cecilia should die without heirs of her body, all the said land should revert to the heirs of the said Cecilia, and the said Petronilla should not make any claim for the same.¹

Cecilia Avenel was given by Robert de Muscegros in marriage to his son and heir, John de Muscegros, who died 1274-5, seized of one knight's fee in Kenemerton and the other lands of his own inheritance, the whole of which, of course, were taken into the king's hands, and together with them Compton Parva, Langford, and other possessions of his wife, Cecilia, but we do not find Bicknor mentioned in the inquisition;² nevertheless, upon a complaint made by Cecilia, a mandate was issued to the escheator for Gloucestershire to enquire, by a jury of honest and legal men of his bailliwick, whether the manors of Bykenore, Teynton, Langford, Compton, and Brusarton, which had been seized into the king's hands upon the death of the said John de Muscegros, were the lands of inheritance of the said John, or of Cecilia his wife, and if, upon enquiry, it were found that these lands were of the inheritance of the aforesaid Cecilia and not of the said John sometime her husband, seizin of the same was directed to be given to her.³ Neither the inquisition upon this writ, nor those following upon the writs before cited, are now extant, but there can be no doubt that Cecilia de Muscegros recovered possession of her estates, for she thereof died seized in 1301, when Hawysia, wife of John de Ferrers, daughter of Robert de Muscegros, and granddaughter of the said Cecilia, was found to be her next heir and to be aged 25 years.⁴ (see ante p. 312)

¹ De Banco Roll, 23rd Henry III. No. 9. m. 4, dor.

It would seem to be uncertain whether Petronilla was the daughter of Ralph Avenel, or the daughter of Margaret by a former husband. If the former, she would have been aunt to Cecilia, but probably the latter was the case.

² Inq. p. m., 3rd Edward I. No. 23. ³ Rot. Claus, 3rd Edward I., m. 15. ⁴ Inq., p.m. 29th Edward I. No. 29 b.

The following *PEDIGREE* shews the descent of *Avenel* in Gloucestershire.

Robert Avenel paid one-mark in co. Gloucester, 1167. Rot. Pip. 13th Hen. II.

Ralph Avenel held land at Sandhurst, co. Glouc., 1167-1174 (? ob. 1166.)

RALPH AVENEL had seizin of the Manor and Castle of Bicknor, 1190. Rot. Pip. 2nd Richard I. Margaret, daughter of survived her husband, but dead 1236. Rot. Claus., 20th Hen. III.

WILLIAM AVENEL had livery of seizin of the Manor and Castle of Bicknor, 1223, Rot. Fin. 8th Hen. III.; ob. 1236. Inq. p.m., 20th Hen. III. No. 11.

Petronilla=Roger de Lokinton. Helcwisia sister and co.-heir of Wm Malet, Baron of Cory Malet, and relict of Hugh Poyntz Rot. Fin. 5th Henry III., 1221.

Robert de Musecros, had wardship, in 1236, of the dau. and heir of William Avenel, died 1252. Inq. p.m., 3rd Henry III. No. 39.

DULCIA, or CECILIA, dau. and heir, a minor on her father's death, ob. 1301. Inq. p.m. 29th Edward I. No. 29 b. John de Musecros, aged 21 years, 10th Aug., 37th Hen. III. (1251) died 1276. Inq. p.m., 3rd Edward I. No. 23.

Robert de Musecros, son and heir, aged 23 years, 1276, ob. 1283, Inq. p.m. 9th Edward. I. No. 24. Agnes, da. of William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby.

John Lord Ferrers, of Chartley, son and heir of Robert 8th and last Earl of Derby, Summ. to Parl., from 1299 to 1311 Died 1324. HAWISIA dau. and heir aged 4 yrs. 21 Dec., 1280, held Manor of Bicknor as heir of her grandmother Cecilia de Musecros, died before 24th Edw. III. [1350]. JOHN DE BURES, 2nd husb. Held Manor of Bicknor in right of Hawisia his wife, ob. Wed. in the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, 1350. Inq. p.m., 24th Edw. III. No. 101.

See ante, Vol I., p. 88,
for continuation.

Those whose names are printed in Small Capitals held the manor of Bicknor.

ARMS.

In the British Museum (Harl. MS. 1047) is an achievement of Arms, consisting of 94 quarterings, assigned to Lord Strafford. Among them, brought in by Ferrers, are (81) *Gules, a lion rampant, guardant or, over all a label of five points, az.* (for Muscegros) and (82) *Gules, a fess between six annulets ar.* (for Avenel).

(Grant of the Manor of Bicknor by Henry I. to Milo de Gloucester.

Henricus rex Angliæ Episcopo Herefordensi et Justiciariis et vice-comitibus et omnibus Baronibus et fidelibus suis francis et Anglis de GloucestreScira et HerefortScira salutem. Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse Miloni Gloucestriæ Conestabulo meo in feodum et hereditatem terram de Bichenouero que fuit Vlurici de Denā. Quare volo et firmiter præcipio quod ipse eam teneat iure hereditario in bosco et plano in omnibus rebus cum Soca et Saca et Tol et Team et Infangeneteof et cum Omnibus Consuetudinibus et libertatibus et quietationibus cum quibus ipse melius et quietius et honorabilius et liberius tenet aliud feodum suum. Testibus Galfrido Cancellario et R. de Sigillo et P. filio iohannis et E. filio iohannis et Willelmo filio iohannis Willelmo de alb' brit', apud cantebrigiam.

(Seal in white wax nearly perfect.)

Endorsed in a much later hand—Carta Henrici Regis magni facta Miloni Gloucestriæ de Manerio de Bichenouero..